

## RUSSIANS PRESS FLEEING TURKS

No Chance Given to the Routed Army to Prepare a Stand.

## BRITISH ADVANCE STOPPED NEAR KUT

General Aylmer Unable to Reach Besieged Troops, Seven Miles Away.

London, Jan. 23.—The Russians are following up their victory over the Turks near Erzerum and are still pressing the routed troops. Petrograd announces tonight. As yet, however, there is no confirmation of the report that the forts of Erzerum have been bombarded.

Artillery ammunition, provisions and prisoners continue to be taken in great quantities, while the roads are strewn with frozen bodies of Askaris.

The arrival of new Russian detachments from Manchuria and Eastern Asia is also indicated in the Russian statement, which says that the troops with great bravery charged a superior force of the enemy.

The defeat of the Third Turkish Army, in the Caucasus, resulting in its retirement upon Erzerum, is regarded as a greater victory than that at San Kamysal a year ago, when these same troops were so demoralized that they were only recently enabled to resume the offensive.

The Eleventh Corps and parts of the Ninth and Tenth of the Turkish army were engaged in the battle in the neighborhood of Lake Tortum, according to the military communiqué. Behind these were concentrated the reserves from the Ninth and the garrison of the Erzerum fortress. In spite of the most skillful handling of the Turkish divisions, however, they were unable to withstand the sudden and unexpected onset of the Russians against the centre.

The defeat of the Turks, it is asserted, was particularly disastrous in the direction of Koprulu, where by artillery attacks, followed by assaults with the bayonet, the Russians virtually destroyed three regiments, seizing the key to the Erzerum fortress in Russian possession. It is pointed out that after the San Kamysal battle the Turks were unable to hold this position.

Official confirmation is also given to the occupation of Sultanabad, sixty miles southwest of Hamadan, in Persia, by the Russians.

So far, however, the Russian victories have been without effect on the hardened British forces at Kut, seeking to hold out until the arrival of General Aylmer's relief column. This force, despite persistent attacks, has not been able to advance beyond Esdin, seven miles from Kut.

The Turks stubbornly hold the fortifications despite heavy losses, and with the weather making the operation of artillery practically impossible, the British have been unable to renew the assault. No details of the fighting are given, but London admits that the losses have been heavy.

"The precipitate retreat of the Turks in the region of Erzerum continues," says the Petrograd statement. "In many places we are still capturing artillery ammunition, provisions and telephone material. Our pursuing troops are advancing along roads strewn with frozen bodies of Askaris. Large numbers of prisoners have been taken at each inhabited place."

The Turkish detachment, which has arrived at the Caucasian front from Manchuria, charged half a squadron of cavalry and three companies of Askaris, who were defending the village, subduing some of the force and capturing others.

"South of the river Charlasen we completely annihilated strong Kurdish detachments. In the neighborhood of Melikshart our cavalry engaged large forces of Kurds and took from them 500 head of cattle."

"Perse—Southeast of Hamadan the enemy attempted to advance toward Kandehar Pass, but was repulsed."

"Our troops occupied the town of Sultanabad, six miles southeast of Hamadan, from which the German Consul and a detachment recruited by him from the Persian population fled."

The following British statement on the Mesopotamian campaign was given out to-day, under yesterday's date:

"Sir Percy Lake (the new commander in Mesopotamia) reports that General Aylmer attacked the Turkish position at Esdin on Friday. Fighting continued through the day, with varying success. The weather throughout was atrocious, a pouring rain rendering movements of troops extremely difficult."

"Owing to the floods it was impossible to renew the attack on Saturday, and General Aylmer took up a position 1,500 yards from the enemy's trenches."

"The weather continued very bad, with incessant rain. No details regarding the casualties have been received, but they are reported to have been very heavy on both sides."

## AUSTRIANS SEIZE ADRIATIC PORTS

Continued from page 1

and Montenegro concerning the formation of a close diplomatic, economic and military union of these nations. Russia not only was initiated into the secret, but fostered the plan. She offered assistance in the way of funds and military contractors to increase the fighting strength of Montenegro.

The long-standing antagonism of Serbia and Montenegro toward Austria makes it evident that these negotiations were carried on in the interest of Russia's policy of Pan-Slavism, being aimed against Austria.

This is the more astonishing in view of the fact that Germany maintained a friendly attitude toward Russia after the war, and sought reestablishment of the cordial relations which had been traditional for decades. The reasons why Russia declined to fall in with Germany's wishes have not been known until now.

These reasons had to do with the state of affairs in Russia. At that time the Russian government above all else feared a revolutionary movement. In order to insure maintenance of the autocracy, the Tsar had thrown himself into the arms of the reactionary Pan-Slavists, from whom he expected staunch support of the Russian dynasty.

The Pan-Slavists were and are sworn enemies of Germany. The Russian government, therefore, was compelled to adopt a policy hostile to Germany in foreign affairs, which facilitated establishment of close relations with Great Britain.

It is now known that these facts have been obscured by the systematic anti-German propaganda of the Russian Pan-Slavists, it being asserted always that the German Emperor favored the reactionary regime in Russia. In reality Emperor William repeatedly pointed out to Emperor Nicholas the great menace to his dynasty which was occasioned by his refusal to grant a constitution.

All these facts are well known to M. Sazonoff, the Russian Foreign Minister, but this did not prevent the Russian government from declaring solemnly at the outbreak of the war that its purpose was to fight for liberty and progress. In reality it was only carrying out the foreign policy of the Black Hundred and the other Pan-Slavists in order to obtain their assistance in resuming progress in Russia.

## Montenegrins Exaggerate Losses, Say Americans

ROME, Jan. 23.—Additional light is cast on the situation in Montenegro. A cable and Serbian has been obtained through G. W. Bakeman and R. J. Strong, of the American Sanitary Commission, and George L. Lorillard, who has been in Serbia for the United States government to protect the interests of Austrian prisoners held by the Serbians.

Mr. Bakeman and Mr. Strong arrived at the American Embassy to-day, having left San Giovanni di Modena for Brindisi in one of the last vessels departing that abandoned Albanian town. Mr. Lorillard has been in Rome for several days.

Views expressed by Mr. Bakeman and Mr. Strong are that the so-called sanguinary Montenegrin battles have in reality not been very heavy, and that not forty men had been wounded there in six months. The Montenegrin government, they said, was in readiness to leave the country for Italy or Greece whenever the step became necessary.

Mr. Lorillard did not deny the views of Mr. Bakeman and Mr. Strong, which also indicated that since the beginning of the war the Montenegrin government had no understanding with the Austrians which made it unsafe for any attempts to be made at receiving succor from Italy or other Entente Allies.

"I wish to say," said Mr. Lorillard, "that Italy has done fine work as far as she was able in helping the Serbs. She has kept her good faith in getting food and other supplies to the Serbs and refugees."

Mr. Lorillard said the sanitary conditions of the Serb army were very bad. There were 100,000 men now quartered along the coast from Scutari to Durazzo. Typhus, cholera and smallpox were prevalent, and the roads were littered with starving and dying men and horses. The Serbs were tired out. They had been visited too much by charity commissions and had received too much advice and too little help—too many French, English and Italian officers had visited them, but with no accompanying soldiers to give them assistance. Food was very scarce in Montenegro, but any help sent now come from Austria. Mr. Lorillard said that he had no personal opinion to express in regard to the situation and that his statement merely reflected things he had seen or conversations he had had.

Mr. Bakeman, who has long been on the Adriatic coast, said:

"It is true that the Entente Allies sent hundreds of tons of food and munitions to San Giovanni di Modena in the winter. The harbor there is a safe one from attack. King Nicholas, however, would not come for the supplies or send for them. Instead, he sent his soldiers away loads of furniture from his palace. The ship on which we left Albania was fired upon by aeroplanes and submarines as we were leaving San Giovanni di Modena."

"The price of bread when we left was 10 francs per kilo (220 pounds), while it was sold for 2 francs per kilo and sugar at 10 francs."

Dr. Edward W. Ryan, of the American Red Cross, who has recently been in Montenegro, witnessed the battle on Mount Lovcen. He could hear the roar of the heavy bombardment and see the shells bursting on the mountain. During the fighting he had an interview with King Nicholas, who said:

"It does not make any difference to me what others say. It is certain that Montenegro will fight with her Allies to the end."

The old King, according to Dr. Ryan, then raised his sword and solemnly said, "With this to the last." Whereupon he followed his soldiers to Mount Lovcen.

## GERMANS TAKE ALLIED TRENCH

Violent Assault Wins 200 Yards of Position Between Arras and Lens.

## TEUTONS ADVANCE IN ARGONNE ALSO

Capture Section of Foe's Line—French Fire Plays Havoc in Champagne.

London, Jan. 23.—Heavy fighting has been in progress in France. A French advanced position on the road between Arras and Lens was attacked to-day by strong German forces. The infantry attack was preceded by mine explosions and a violent bombardment, and the Germans captured a first line trench on a front of several hundred yards.

French counter attacks were immediately inaugurated and a portion of the captured trench was retaken. The Germans, however, at the close of the day occupied about 200 yards of the advanced trench, which formed a salient in the French lines.

In the Argonne the Germans occupied a section of a trench after a short engagement with hand grenades.

Between Soissons and Reims and in Champagne French artillery seriously damaged the enemy trenches and manning depots.

London reports successes in the bombing of hostile works at Monchy and

"This morning," says the French official communication, "after the explosion of mines and a violent bombardment, the Germans carried out an attack on part of our front to the west of the road between Arras and Lens, in the region of Neuville St. Vaast. The enemy was able to penetrate on a front of several hundred yards into our first line trenches and as far as the supporting trench. Our counter-attack, delivered immediately, broke the effort of the enemy and dislodged him from the ground which he had captured."

"The enemy occupied in the afternoon only about two hundred yards of an advanced trench forming a salient of ours. Our curtain of fire and the fire of our machine guns resulted in considerable losses to the Germans. Between Soissons and Reims our trench guns seriously damaged the enemy organizations at the Chateau Farm and on the plateau of Vauquois. The Germans had established a number of machine gun nests and munitions depot to the east of Reims."

Northwest of Usciecko hand-to-hand fighting has been taking place daily. Russian assaults on the Austrian fortifications repeatedly breaking down. South of Izhum this morning a violent Russian attack was repelled, with heavy losses to the attacking forces.

In the Riga sector the Germans are using asphyxiating shells on the Russian positions.

The operations on the south-western front have taken on the character of trench warfare, the two sides being almost constantly and strongly entrenched. Offensive movements have ceased for the time being on the middle Stripa and in the district of Czernowitz. The Russian offensive, however, continues on the lower Stripa and the Dniester, where the Russians have tried to break through the enemy positions and menace the flank based on Bucovina and have captured the strategically important village of Izhum.

The Austrian official communication says:

"On Friday we blasted a Russian trench on the Dolom Heights, south of Bozen, on the Puster. Of the 600 men occupying the trench only a few escaped. During the course of Friday night our troops expelled the enemy from one of his intrenchments in the same region."

The Russian statement says:

"In the Riga sector, near the Mittau road, the Germans bombarded our intrenchments with asphyxiating shells. Near Pulkarn, on the Bausk road, skirmishes occurred between German detachments and parties of our troops."

The correspondent describes a single

criticism in the House of Commons, asserting that the Fokker was well adapted to defensive operations but was incapable of making long flights.

Some of the London newspapers were not satisfied with this statement, pointing out that British headquarters reports showed the loss of sixteen aeroplanes in a month. It was suggested that Zeppelins would accompany the Fokkers.

Observes here, however, that it is unlikely that the German raider was one of the new fighter machines, which so far have confined their activities to flights behind or near their own lines, but say that the machine probably was a Taube capable of carrying a considerable load.

The first Zeppelin raid last year came in January and on the east coast. The latest attack undoubtedly will arouse further agitation for armament by the government that everything is being done to perfect all defenses and also will give support to Conant Doyle and others, who hold that reprisal measures are the best preventive for further raids.

Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France describes a visit he made to the aerial headquarters, and says that the Germans must be well aware that Great Britain possesses a battle plane which is a very effective answer to the German Fokker machine, although only a limited number of the new planes are yet in actual active service.

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loss of 16 francs per kilo (220 pounds), while it was sold for 2 francs per kilo and sugar at 10 francs."

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The correspondent describes a single

day's fighting against the Fokker machine in illustrating the effective manner in which the British are able to deal with these German aircraft, which, he says, although extremely valuable as fighting machines, failed to have a radius of only 150 miles.

## HOUSE OFF FOR SWITZERLAND

Wilson's Envoy Sunday Guest of Ambassador Sharp.

Paris, Jan. 23.—Colonel E. M. House, President Wilson's personal representative, spent Sunday as the guest of the American Ambassador and Mrs. William Graver Sharp. He left this evening for Switzerland.

The "Tempo" says that "Colonel House will find in London as well as in Paris the same resolution as on his recent trip to fight without basitudo or weakness until the final victory."

The "Tempo" pays tribute to the Americans who have given their lives in the French trenches, and concludes: "President Wilson is exercising his powers with a high conception of his responsibilities. The mission he has confided to Colonel House shows a sincere desire to be exactly and directly informed. We congratulate him on this inquiry that cannot be disadvantageous."

## EASY PATH FOR DRAFT BILL

English Labor Expected to Accept the Measure Without Disorder.

London, Jan. 23.—It is believed that the concluding stages of the military conscription bill will be passed without difficulty and that the measure will go into operation without the Labor party or the trades unions trying to frustrate its smooth working by a resort to general strike or other industrial upheaval.

Suspicion formerly entertained by labor men concerning the bill have been largely removed by Premier Asquith's assurances and the successful passage of the bill through its stages in the House of Commons, and in the opinion of some of the influential traders union leaders whom the Bristol Labor Conference next week is expected to receive assurances that will decide to support the bill.

## AUSTRIANS WIN TRENCH ON PRUTH

Blow Up Another Position—Violent Russian Assualts South of Dubno Repulsed.

London, Jan. 23.—There has been sharp fighting at several points on the east front during the last few days. On Friday the Austrians captured a Russian intrenchment on the Bolotki Heights, on the Pruth, and blasted an enemy trench, killing nearly 300 of the enemy.

The enemy occupied in the afternoon only about two hundred yards of an advanced trench forming a salient of ours. Our curtain of fire and the fire of our machine guns resulted in considerable losses to the Germans.

Between Nevillie, north of Arras, the Germans, after successful mining operations, occupied an advanced position of the enemy 250 yards long and captured seventy-one Frenchmen.

"In the Argonne the Germans occupied a section of a trench after a short engagement with hand grenades.

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## SAYS CAILLAUX WILL BE PREMIER

Paris Observer Predicts Fall of Briand by End of January.

## MUNITIONS GRAFT WILL BE LEAVEN

Explosion Has Been Averted in Chamber, but It Is Bound to Come.

By FRED B. PITNEY.

Paris, Jan. 12.—"Keep your eye on Caillaux," is the watchword in French politics nowadays. The ex-Finance Minister is coming back. He had his man, Malvy, in the Vivian Cabinet, and he has kept him in the Briand Cabinet.

It was Caillaux who decided that there

## ASK BRITISH PAPERS TO CUT DOWN SIZE

Plans for More Tonnage May Reduce Wood Pulp Supply.

London, Jan. 24.—Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, will meet the leading British newspaper owners to-day for a conference regarding proposals to secure importations of paper pulp and pulp wood to 100 per cent of ships for other trades.

"On a single night recently," says one correspondent, "twenty-one Turkish officers suspected of treason were dropped into the Bosporus with stones around their necks."

"The Times's" Stockholm correspondent

says that the Turks recently have been restive under the rule of Enver Pacha, and serious plots against him have been discovered, these being suppressed ruthlessly.

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KING GEORGE'S AIDE KILLED

General Hugh Gregory Fitton Falls at the Front.

London, Jan. 24.—The